

ORIG: George A. Carver, Jr.

UNIT: O/DCI/SAVA

EXT: [REDACTED]

DATE: 12 November 1969

MESSAGE FORM

TOTAL COPIES: 26

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CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

BY: [REDACTED] PER: [REDACTED]

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25X1

CONF: [REDACTED]

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CITE DIRECTOR

YO [REDACTED]

SAIGON



(1)

1. MR. DON OBERDORFER, NOW ON STAFF OF WASHINGTON POST, IS PROCEEDING SAIGON IN NEAR FUTURE FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH. WHILE THERE, HE WILL DO GENERAL REPORTING FOR POST CONCENTRATING ON PACIFICATION. HE WILL ALSO TRY TO SPEND AS MUCH TIME AS HE CAN GATHERING MATERIAL FOR BOOK HE IS WRITING.

2. BOOK IS ANALYTIC IN-DEPTH STUDY OF 1968 TET OFFENSIVE, INCLUDING COMMUNIST PLANNING, PREPARATIONS AND OBJECTIVES, WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED DURING OFFENSIVE ITSELF, ITS AFTERMATH AND ITS NET IMPACT ON AND CONSEQUENCES FOR ALL PARTIES CONCERNED. OBERDORFER BELIEVES TET 1968 WAS REAL WATERSHED DIVIDE IN CURRENT VIETNAMESE HISTORY THAT HAS

COORDINATING OFFICERS

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SECRET

downgrading and
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CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

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PAGE TWO

CITE DIRECTOR

TO

NEVER RECEIVED SERIOUS, OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS IT DESERVES.

3. OBERDORFER HAS VERY SOLID RECORD WITH [REDACTED] 25X1
HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN BALANCED, FAIR AND DISCREET IN SENSE
THAT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE HE HAS NEVER BETRAYED A CONFIDENCE 25X1
OR VIOLATED BACKGROUND BRIEFING GROUND RULES. AT [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED]

4. OBERDORFER ASKED [REDACTED] FOR NAME OF SOMEONE IN 25X1
SAIGON MISSION WHOM HE COULD TALK TO ABOUT POST DUTIES AND
HIS BOOK RESEARCH. WE SUGGESTED AMBASSADOR COLBY AND
[REDACTED] AS BEST POINTS OF INITIAL CONTACT. [REDACTED] CAN HENCE 25X1
ANTICIPATE VISIT AND STATION CAN PLAY BY EAR FROM THERE ON
AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE IT WISHES TO PROVIDE.

END OF MESSAGE

Mr. Goodwin

C/VNO

C

RS

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